

S/N 09/977036PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Paul Wingert	Examiner:	Thanh Truong
Serial No.:	09/977036	Group Art Unit:	Unknown
Filed:	October 11, 2001	Docket No:	671.003US1
Title:	AGRICULTURAL BAGGER WITH UPPER TUNNEL COMPACTION AND CHUTE AGITATION		

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

On January 10, 2003 a verbally presented Restriction Requirement from Examiner Truong to Applicant's attorney Charles A. Lemaire presented Group I as including claims 1-8 and 19-24 to apparatus, and Group II as including claims 9-17 and 25-26 to method. Applicant provisionally elects Group I including apparatus claims 1-8, 19-24, with traverse. Applicant also cancels method claims 9-18, reserving the right to reintroduce such claims in a later application. Applicant also adds apparatus claims 27-36, directed to the apparatus invention of the provisionally elected Group 1, as means-plus-function claims to be interpreted under 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 6.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the claim set in the appendix entitled Clean Version of Pending Claims for the previously pending claim set. The substitute claim set is intended to reflect cancellation of claims 9-17, amendment of previously pending claims 20-24, and addition of new claims 27-36. The specific amendments to individual claims are detailed in the following marked up set of claims.

20. [Amended Once]      The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the secondary compression mechanism [of claim 19] is located on the exterior of the feed tunnel and extending into the feed tunnel above the primary compression mechanism.